disclose or suggest the asserted <u>types</u> of noise, much less a plurality of signal to noise ratio for each noise type.

Wymore discloses a speech recognition process executed for a plurality of ambient noise level ranges. See col. 4, lines 1-9, 18-27 and 48-57. Wymore discloses <u>noise levels</u>, but does not disclose or suggest <u>noise types</u>.

The Office Action asserts that Wymore discloses noise types at col. 4, lines 18-27. However, Wymore's disclosure at col. 4, lines 18-27 merely describes noise level ranges. As is known in the art, different noise levels represent different <u>magnitudes</u> of noise, but does not represent different characteristics, such as spectral characteristics of noise. On the other hand, different noise types represent different characteristics, such as spectral characteristics, of different noises, even if the different types of noise have the same magnitude. (See the specification at, for example, paragraph [0006].) Thus, by merely disclosing different noise levels, Wymore does not disclose or suggest different noise types.

The Office Action appears to be confusing the reference patterns A_i disclosed in Wymore with noise types. However, each of the reference patterns A_i, as disclosed in Wymore, are merely patterns of different noise level ranges. See col. 4, lines 17-36. In particular, each reference pattern A_i merely represents a different noise level range. Thus, each reference pattern A_i only represents a range of "noise magnitude," without disclosing a characteristic, such as spectral characteristic, of the noise. Therefore, Wymore's reference patterns A_i do not disclose noise types.

For at least the above reasons, Wymore does not disclose or suggest noise types, much less the plurality of signal to noise ratios for each noise type. Therefore, Wymore does not supply the subject matter lacking in Wakisaka. Thus, Wakisaka and Wymore do not disclose or suggest acoustic models corresponding to each of a plurality of S/N ratios of each of the noise types, as recited in claims 1, 9, 12, 20, 23 and 31.

In view of the above, Wakisaka and Wymore do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 9, 12, 20, 23 and 31, and claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 13, 15, 16, 21, 24, 26, 27, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40 and 42 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 6-8, 11, 14, 17-19, 22, 25, 28-30, 33, 35, 38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wakisaka in view of Wymore in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,890,113 to Takagi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.
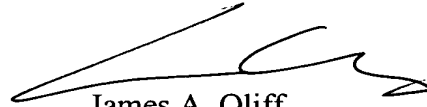
Takagi discloses a speech recognizer using a time series of feature vectors of reference speaker's speech. See col. 3, lines 45-51. Takagi does not disclose or suggest acoustic models corresponding to types of noise and a plurality of S/N ratios for each of the noise types, as recited in claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 17, 20, 23, 28 and 31. Therefore, Takagi does not supply the subject matter lacking in Wakisaka and Wymore.

For at least the above reason, Wakisaka, Wymore and Takagi do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 17, 20, 23, 28 and 31, and claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 14, 18, 19, 22, 25, 29, 30, 33, 35, 38 and 41 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 6-8, 11, 14, 17-19, 22, 25, 28-30, 33, 35, 38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-42 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 19, 2005

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